

In the claims:

Claims 1-22 cancelled.

23. (new) A device for determining a required length of a middle ear prosthesis, comprising a disk-shaped base part to which prosthesis mockups or prostheses of different lengths are fastenable, which, after being detached from said base part, are insertable by an applicator into a middle ear of a patient during an operation for length determination purposes, said base part being provided with accessories for a step selected from the group consisting of measuring, shaping, and both of the middle ear prosthesis to be inserted, said accessories including at least one recess provided on a side selected from the group consisting of a top side, a bottom side, and both of said disk-shaped base part, which has an inner diameter that corresponds to an outer diameter of a head plate of the middle ear prosthesis to be inserted.

24. (new) A device as defined in claim 23, wherein said base part, under each said recess, has a cavity extending into said base part.

25. (new) A device as defined in claim 24, wherein said recess is configured to accommodate a bell, which is mounted under the

head plate of the middle ear prosthesis and used to attach the middle ear prosthesis to stapes of the middle ear.

26. (new) A device as defined in claim 24, wherein said recess is configured to accommodate a strut, which is mounted under the head plate of the middle ear prosthesis and used to support a middle ear prosthesis on a stapedial foot plate of the middle ear.

27. (new) A device as defined in claim 24, wherein said recess has an inner diameter with a contour partially corresponding to an outer contour of the head plate of the middle ear prosthesis, but in at least one section is widened radially outwardly in comparison to a maximum outer diameter of the head plate.

28. (new) A device as defined in claim 23, wherein said base part is provided with a number of recesses, which correspond to outer diameters of head plates of middle ear prostheses and are of different depths.

29. (new) A device as defined in claim 28, wherein said recesses are distributed over a circumference of said base part.

30. (new) A device as defined in claim 28, wherein said base part is provided with an element selected from the group consisting of a mark and a label and arranged next to each of said recesses, which correlates to a dimension selected from the group consisting of a respective depth of a corresponding one of said recesses and a length of the head plate accommodatable therein, a size of an inner diameter of a corresponding one of said recesses and an outer diameter of the head plate, a shape of said recess and the head plate, and combinations thereof.

31. (new) A device as defined in claim 23, wherein said accessories include at least one conical protrusion configured for widening an inner diameter of a bell, which is mounted under the head plate of the middle ear prosthesis and used to attach the inner ear prosthesis to stapes of the middle ear.

32. (new) A device as defined in claim 31, wherein said at least one conical protrusion has a rounded tip that protrudes from one side of said base part and situated in a hollow.

33. (new) A device as defined in claim 31, wherein said conical protrusion is situated on a same side of said disk-shaped base

part as said recess for accommodating the head plate of a middle ear prosthesis.

34. (new) A device as defined in claim 23, wherein said accessories include at least one hollow configured for accommodating a cartilage or fascia disk that serves as an insert between the middle ear prosthesis and an ear drum in order to mechanically protect the latter.

35. (new) A device as defined in claim 34, wherein said hollow is configured for providing a step selected from the group consisting of measuring, shaping, and both of the cartilage or facia disk.

36. (new) A device as defined in claim 34, wherein said hollow for accommodating cartilage or facia disks has a contour selected from the group consisting of a round contour and an oval contour.

37. (new) A device as defined in claim 23, wherein said base part is provided with a number of hollows having different dimensions selected from the group consisting of different size inner diameters, different depths, and both.

38. (new) A device as defined in claim 23, wherein said accessories include at least one essentially flat preparation area on at least one side of said disk-shaped base part.

39. (new) A device as defined in claim 38; and further comprising a length scale provided on a surface of said base part at least at one location of said preparation area.

40. (new) A device as defined in claim 39, wherein said scale is calibrated in millimeters.

41. (new) A device as defined in claim 34, wherein said accessories include at least one substantially flat preparation area on at least one side of said disk-shaped base part, said at least one hollow for accommodating cartilage of facia disk being situated in said preparation area.

42. (new) A device as defined in claim 34, wherein said recesses for accommodating the head plate of a middle ear prosthesis and a preparation area provided in said accessories are situated on two different sides of said disk-shaped base part.

43. (new) A device as defined in claim 34, wherein said recesses for accommodating the head plate of the middle ear prosthesis, a preparation area provided in the accessories, and at least one hollow for accommodating cartilage or facia disks are situated on two different sides of said disk-shaped base.

44. (new) A device as defined in claim 42, wherein said recesses and said preparation area are located on the two different sides which are opposing sides.

45. (new) A device as defined in claim 23; and further comprising bridged pieces arranged so that the prosthesis mockups are attached to said bridge pieces and distributed like satellites around an outer circumference of said disk-shaped base part.

46. (new) A device as defined in claim 23; and further comprising a plurality of protective projections situated between each pair of prosthesis mockups and distributed over a circumference of said disk-shaped base part so as to protrude beyond the prosthesis mockups in a radial direction.

47. (new) A device as defined in claim 46, wherein said protective projections are configured as rod-shaped projections.

48. (new) A device as defined in claim 46, wherein said disk-shaped base part has a polygonal outer circumference, said protective projections protruding outwards in the radial direction from vertices of said base part.

49. (new) A device as defined in claim 48, wherein the outer circumference of said disk-shaped base part has the polygonal shape selected from the group consisting of a hexagonal shape and an orthogonal shape.

50. (new) A device as defined in claim 23, wherein said prosthesis mockups are of different sizes.

51. (new) A device as defined in claim 50, wherein said prosthesis mockups have different lengths.

52. (new) A device as defined in claim 23, wherein said recesses are configured to correspond to outer diameters of the head plates of the middle ear prosthesis and are of different respective depth, the prosthesis mockups being situated on an outer circumference of said base part, each in a radial vicinity of a respective one of said recesses for accommodating the head plate of the middle ear prosthesis, said recess

having a size which corresponds to a size of the prosthesis mockups respectively adjacent to it.

53. (new) A device as defined in claim 52, wherein said recesses are distributed over a circumference of said base part.

54. (new) A device as defined in claim 45, wherein said base part, said bridge pieces, and the prosthesis mockups are formed as injection molded plastic parts.

55. (new) A device as defined in claim 54, wherein said base part, said bridge pieces and the prosthesis mockups are integrally joined to one another.

56. (new) A device for determining a required length of a middle ear prosthesis, comprising a disk-shaped base part to which prosthesis mockups or prostheses of different lengths are fastenable, after being detached from said base part, are insertable by an applicator into a middle ear of a patient during an operation for length determining purposes, said base part being provided with accessories for a step selected from the group consisting of measuring, shaping, and both of the middle ear prosthesis to be inserted, said accessories including at least one conical protrusion that protrudes from one side of said base part and

used to widen an inner diameter of a bell which is mounted under a head plate of the middle ear prosthesis and used to attach the middle ear prosthesis to stapes of the middle ear.

57. (new) A device as defined in claim 56, wherein said at least one conical protrusion has a rounded tip that protrudes from one side of said base part and situated in a hollow.

58. (new) A device for determining a required length of a middle ear prosthesis, comprising a disk-shaped base part to which prosthesis mockups or prostheses of different lengths are fastenable, which after being detached from said base part are insertable by an applicator into a middle ear of a patient during an operation for length determination purposes, said base part being provided with accessories for a step selected from the group consisting of measuring, shaping and both of the middle ear prosthesis to be inserted, said accessories including at least one hollow in said base part, which is configured for accommodating a cartilage or facia disk that serves as an insert between the middle ear prosthesis and an eardrum in order to mechanically protect the latter.

59. (new) A device as defined in claim 58, wherein said accessories include several hollows in said base part, which are configured for accommodating a cartilage or facia disk.

60. (new) A device as defined in claim 58, wherein said at least one hollow is configured also for performing a step selected from the group consisting of measuring, shaping, and both of a cartilage or facia disk.

Please accept the following new abstract of the disclosure:

A device for determining the required length of a middle ear prosthesis, having a disk-shaped base part to which prosthesis mockups or prostheses of different lengths are fastened, which, after being detached from the base part, can be inserted by an applicator into the middle ear of a patient during an operation for length determination purposes, in which the base part is provided with accessories for measuring and/or shaping the middle ear prosthesis to be inserted, so that this provides the operator with an even more simplified handling of prosthesis mockups or prostheses during the operation; no additional separate parts have to be used and instead, the handling means are compactly provided on or integrated into the device itself.